

BOARD OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Resolution

Commending Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and **The State Park System** **For receiving the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation** **Management** **November 13, 2001**

On October 3, 2001, at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress & Exposition in Denver, Colorado, Virginia's State Parks were awarded the National Gold Medal for "Excellence in Park and Recreation Management."

Virginia was selected based upon improvement, service, continuing development, extent of future planning and degree of involvement and acceptance by communities throughout the state.

This award is recognized as the most prestigious award that a state park system can receive and Virginia now joins only Ohio (1997) and Florida (1999) in receiving this national recognition.

Our state parks staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly as stewards conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Commonwealth.

Our state parks provide exceptional recreational and outdoor experiences.

Since 1936 Virginia families have found our state park lakes, streams, beaches, trails, picnic areas, pools, cabins, campgrounds ideal settings for the making of lifetime memories.

In 2000, more than 6 million visitors to Virginia's 34 state parks generated more than \$130 million in economic impact to the local and state economy.

We recognize that our great state parks are critical to the quality of life enjoyed by our residents and visitors to Virginia

We recognize that this achievement is all the more significant given that Virginia's State Parks are America's most frugally supported, ranking 50th in per capita support and 50th in proportion of the state budget dedicated to parks.

We further recognize that this success also reflects the strong coordination and cooperation of divisions within the Department of Conservation and Recreation including, Administration, Finance, Planning and Recreation Resources, Soil and Water Conservation, Natural Heritage and Dam Safety; all working as a team for the benefit of our citizens.

We salute the hard working staff and volunteers of Virginia's state parks and staff throughout the Department of Conservation and Recreation who contribute to our Gold Medal State Park system. We commend DCR Director David G. Brickley and State Parks Director Joe Elton for their commitment to excellence and their role in bringing the National Gold Medal Award to Virginia. The Board requests that this resolution be distributed by the Secretary to Messieurs Brickley and Elton, to all State Parks, and to the other DCR support units.